



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY URGES CITY COUNCIL TO DECLARE A WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY AND IMPLEMENT MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES TO OFFSET EXPECTED WATER SHORTFALL

San Diego, CA—City Attorney Michael Aguirre is urging the Mayor and City Council to declare a water shortage emergency and implement a Stage 2 Water Alert, which is one of four levels of mandatory water conservation measures set forth in the City's Municipal Code.

The memorandum cites the need to take serious action in light of historic dry conditions and a recent federal court ruling that will limit the amount of water pumped from the California Bay Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta) to Southern California, in order to protect an endangered fish species. San Diego imports more than 90% of its water with over one-third coming from the Bay-Delta.

"The court has made its ruling, and I have personally spoken to the attorney who handled the case for the Natural Resources Defense Council. There will be a substantial water reduction expected to take place in December," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. "We cannot gamble away San Diego's water security future. We need to act now."

The City Attorney has requested Council President Scott Peters to place the matter on the City Council agenda. State law requires the City to hold a public hearing prior to declaring a water shortage emergency.

The City Attorney memorandum states "There is a sufficient basis to declare a water shortage emergency and implement Stage 2 conservation measures. A water shortage emergency may be declared for threatened shortages that have yet to occur.... The declaration of a water shortage emergency may be done by resolution, as has been done in the past."

Stage 2 mandatory conservation of potable water affects washing of vehicles, lawn watering, washing down sidewalks and restaurants are prohibited from serving water to customers unless requested by customers, as well as other water uses.

To view a copy of the City Attorney's memorandum, visit www.sandiegocityattorney.org, and click San Diego's Water Crisis.

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